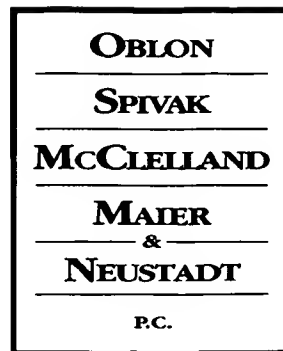




Docket No.: 205994US8

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/996,903

Applicants: Terrence CHATFIELD, et al.

Filing Date: November 30, 2001

For: SYSTEM, METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM
PRODUCT FOR PROVIDING A WHOLESALE
PROVISIONING SERVICE

Group Art Unit: 2171

Examiner: ALAUBAIDI, HAYTHIM

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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DOCKET NO: 205994US8

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

TERRENCE CHATFIELD, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: ALAUBAIDI, HAYTHIM

SERIAL NO: 09/996,903 :

FILED: NOVEMBER 30, 2001

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2171

FOR: SYSTEM, METHOD, AND :
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 30, 2004, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group I, Claims 1-19 and 61, drawn to distributed databases and application of databases. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement for the following reasons:

MPEP § 803 provides:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

However, the outstanding Restriction Requirement has not established that an undue burden would exist if the Restriction Requirement was not issued and all the claims were examined together. Moreover, the claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully also traverse the outstanding

Application No. 09/996,903
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2004

Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-61 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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BDL:TJF:fb1

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